Remarks

Claims Rejections: 35 U.S.C. $112

Claims 13 and 25 stand rejected under section 112 of 35 U.S.C. for being allegedly indefinite because of the use of the term "node".

Applicants respectfully traverse.

The term "management node" is properly utilized in most of the pending claims for the following reasons. This term is definite and precise for a person with ordinary skills in the art of system management or alarm management. Alarm collectors, alarm suppliers, alarm reporters and the like are all encompassed by this terminology, which is broadly accepted in the art. The implementation of such nodes using typically a combination of hardware and software means is also widely recognized in the art. Therefore, because this terminology is widely recognized by those skilled in the art, it constitutes precise and definite terminology.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully requests the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection.

Claims Rejections: 35 U.S.C. $101

Claim 32 stand rejected under section 101 of 35 U.S.C. for being allegedly directed to non-statutory subject-matter.

Responsive to the Examiner's objection Applicants have amended claim 32, which is now directed to an "alarm notification data signal embodied in a transmission medium", which is equivalent to the previous terminology of "alarm notification". It is readily apparent for a person ordinarily skilled in the art that the described alarm notifications are data signals, which are embodied in a transmission medium when sent from one management node to another, as described in the entire specification.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully requests the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection.

Claims Rejections: 35 U.S.C. $102

Claims 1-7, 13-19, 25-28, 32-24 stand rejected under section 102 of 35 U.S.C. for being allegedly anticipated by Nagasawa (US Patent 6,094,682, hereinafter called Patent 682).

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a method for handling an alarm notification in a management system, the method comprising the steps of:

a) in a first management node of the management system, appending an identification of the first management node to a path portion of an alarm identifier field of the alarm notification, the path portion comprising identifications of each other management node that handled the alarm notification before the alarm notification reached the first management node; and

b) transmitting the alarm notification from the first management node to a third management node of the management system;

wherein the alarm notification comprises a system identification field for identifying a node that lastly handled the alarm notification, the alarm identifier field for identifying the alarm notification, and an alarm attribute field carrying an alarm payload.

Claim 1 was amended in order to better show the characteristics of the present invention. In the presently claim invention a first management node receives an alarm notification that comprises an alarm identifier with a path portion having identifications of each other management node that handled of the alarm notification before it reached the first management node, the first management node also appending its own identification to that path portion [emphasis added].

Patent 682 not only fails to anticipate the claimed invention, but in actual facts teaches away from the Applicants invention. The cited patent 682 teaches a management system capable of constructing a path information of the network, wherein an originating network element transmits a path-trace transmission value to the next network element in the network. That value includes (1) an identifier of the originating network element, (2) an identifier of the originating facility within the originating network element, and (3) an identifier of a network element which transmits the path traced transmission value. When the path-trace transmission value transits via intermediate network entities between its origination network element and its final destination, (1) the identifier of the network element and (2) the identifier of the originating facility are not changed by the intermediate entities. The only thing that changes is (3) the identifier of the network element which transmits the path-trace transmission value, which is replaced each time the information transits via an intermediate network entity with the identity of that intermediate network entity. Thus, the patent 682 teaches replacing identities of nodes, not appending such identifications to an alarm notification [emphasis added].

The disclosure of the patent 692, including the passages cited by the Examiner, confirm that fact. Column 6, lines 57 -- 67 describes how the originating network entity information is included, and that nodes B and C are path traversal network entities (intermediate network entities via which the information only transits). Column 7 lines 20 -- 23 confirm the structure of the path traced transmission value which includes (1) the originating network entity identifier, (2) the originating facility identifier, and (3) the source network entity identifier. Column 7 lines 33 -- 47 confirms that the intermediate node B "rewrites", as opposed to "appends" the third field of the received path traced transmission value to its own identity "Node B". The same is described later for node C. Therefore, that teaching of the patent 682 is limited to intermediate nodes that erase a certain portion of the path information and replace the erased portion by their own identity, which is equivalent replacing an identity with their own identity [emphasis added].

Replacing a node's identity with another node's identity is i. different from appending an identity to a string of one or more other identities, and ii. allows a different result to be achieved, because a management node then has access only to the last transited network element, as opposed to having access to the full path information, including to each intermediate node, like in the Applicants' claimed invention.

Therefore, the patent 682 teaches away from the Applicants' claimed invention, which appends (i.e. adds) the identity of every intermediate node to the path portion of the alarm identification, thus allowing for the receiving node to detect the entire path followed by the alarm notification, including every single intermediate node. In this respect, the Applicants claimed invention is not taught nor suggested by the cited patent 682, and also allows for a different result to be achieved, i.e the possibility to identify every single intermediate node that handled the alarm notification.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art patent 682 teaches away from the present invention because it suggests replacing a given node identity with another, as opposed to the Applicants claimed invention which adds the management node identification without any deletion or replacement. For this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention of claim 1 is novel and an obvious with respect to the cited prior art, and therefore kindly request the request the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is novel and nonobvious, and thus patentable over the teaching of patent 682. Claims 2-6, and 7-12 are dependent of claim 1, and since they merely add further limitations and clarifications thereto, they are believed to be patentable as well. Claim 13 is an independent claim having limitations similar to those of claim 1, and is therefore

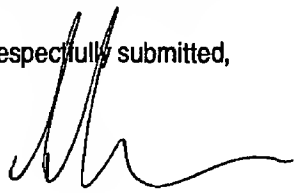
submitted as being patentable for the same reasons. Claims 14-18, and 20-24 are dependent of claim 6, and since they merely add further limitations and clarifications thereto, they are believed to be patentable as well. Claim 25 is another independent claim with limitations similar to those of claim 1, and is therefore submitted as being patentable too, while claims 26-31 depend upon claim 25 and because they only add further limitations and clarifications, they are also submitted to be patentable as well. Claim 32 is another independent claim with limitations similar to those of claim 1, and is therefore submitted as being patentable too, while claims 34 and 36 depend upon claim 32 and because they only add further limitations and clarifications, they are also submitted to be patentable as well.

Conclusion

All pending claims 1-6, 8-18, 20-32, 34, and 36 are herein submitted as being in favorable condition for allowance.

In the Examiner finds out that a prosecution of the present invention would be facilitated by telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, Alex Nicolaescu, at telephone number (514) 345– 7900 extension number 2596.

Respectfully submitted,



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